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THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1905.

A Sea-Level Canal.

Several days ago in discussing the Pan-
ama Canal The Times-Dispatch expressed
the opinion that it should by all means
be a sea-level canal. We said that the
advantages of a sea-level canal were so
great that the question of several million
dollars and of a few years time in ad-
dition were not to be considered.

This view is admirably sustained by
Mr. George W. Crichfield in an article in
the North American Review for Jan-
uary, written from a contractor's stand-
point. Mr. Crichfield says that the work
at Culebra Cut is the easiest and sim-
plest of all the work to be done on the
canal, the most difficult work being
through the marshes on the Atlantic and
Pacific sides, especially the former. He
says that from Colon to Bas Obispo, a
distance of twenty-nine miles, the ter-
ritory is low, marshy land, covered with
the densest tropical growth of trees, vines
and underbrush, so as to be entirely im-
penetrable in most parts, except for a
man with heavy boots and a machete.
During the rainy season, which com-
prises about nine months in each year,
the larger portion of this territory is cov-
ered with water, which, as the wet sea-
son draws to a close, in places becomes
stagnant. The ground is of the softest,
richest loam, the product of the decay
of thousands of years of dense tropical
forests and this, under water, becomes
mud of the worst nature, filled with
rotten logs, stumps, poisonous vines,
thorns, dangerous prickly plants and
many trees of poisonous sap. He further
says that the mosquitoes in these unen-
ding swamps are terrible, not only in their
number, but in the amount of poison
which they convey in their stings. The
undergrowth is so dense that they are as
numerous and vicious by day as by night
and it will be impossible for work-
men on this section of the canal to pro-
tect themselves against these pests. This
mosquito poison, he tells us, produces
the gravest consequences, among them
malaria in its most malignant form, fre-
quently resulting in death, and nervous
derangements which so seriously affect
the heart in tropical countries. In ad-
dition to the mosquitoes are snakes of
venomous type, the most dangerous be-
ing small snakes, which are hard to de-
tect among the leaves. Moreover, he says
the climate in this section of the canal
zone is infernal.

On the Pacific side from Panama to
Pedro Miguel, a distance of nine miles,
a somewhat similar condition exists, but
by no means so bad. It is through these
marshes, according to Mr. Crichfield, that
the most dangerous work is to be done.
The intermediate section comprises what
is known as Culebra Cut, about eight
miles in length. According to his de-
scription, the ground here rises with con-
siderable abruptness from each side and
at Culebra the lowest part of the ground
is 320 feet above the level of the sea,
while the hills extend higher. This, he
tells us, is the most picturesque and
healthful section of Panama. Yellow fever
never reaches it, except sporadically, even
when epidemic at Colon; there are no
mosquitoes to speak of and there is no
reason why an army could not be en-
camped upon any part of this territory as
safely as upon the heights of the Hud-
son.

After giving some estimates of the cost
of locks and locks, according to the pro-
posed plan, Mr. Crichfield expresses his
dissent. "The canal commission, govern-
ment, engineers generally and most
writers on the subject," says he, "speak
of a lock system as though it were a fore-
gone conclusion, with its dams, reser-
voirs, aqueducts, spillways, etc. No one
seems to entertain the thought of a de-
sperate canal. It is taken for granted that
locks are necessary and the very men-
tion of Culebra Cut calls for an exclamation
of amazement at its vastness and
speculations as to the number of years
necessary to accomplish the gigantic task
of cutting it. In order to make this cut
ninety feet shallow, then would be
necessary for a 300-ton canal, the en-
gineers stand ready to sink tens of mil-
lions in locks, dams and other appurte-
nances. To me this seems a tremendous
mistake, and I venture the prediction
that if the canal is built on such a plan,
it will not be fifty years until the United
States will tear all these locks and dams
out and dig the canal as it should be dug
now—that is, forty feet below low-tide
level."

It is just here that he says that the

Culebra Cut is unquestionably the safest
and easiest part of the canal, being the
only place where a white man can live
and work in security. He says also that
the machinery required for handling ma-
terial such as that in the Culebra Cut is
of the simplest character and comparat-
ively inexpensive, and he believes that
properly managed, there would be no dif-
ficulty in completing the cut to a depth
of forty feet below level of the sea in
three years after the installment of the
machinery.

As to the manner in which the work
should be done, Mr. Crichfield also makes
a sensible observation. It is that the work
should be let in sections to private con-
tractors. The proposition for the United
States government to attempt this work
by day labor seems to him unwise. "Un-
der the sun," says he, "is an excellent pol-
ice man, but he is a poor contractor.
Work done by the government is notori-
ously slow and expensive, hedged about
with red tape circumlocution." He is
right. The government will build the can-
nel cheaper and more expeditiously if the
work be done under contract, and there
should be many contractors, so that
should one or two or three of them fail,
it would not seriously interfere with the
general operation.

A bill was introduced in the House yes-
terday to abolish the Isthmian Commis-
sion, and give the President control of
the work. Whether or not the bill is
passed, Mr. Crichfield has given the gov-
ernment two valuable suggestions which
are worthy of serious consideration.

Shall We Have a Library?

The Religious Herald takes strong
ground in favor of accepting Mr. Car-
negie's offer to give Richmond \$100,000 for a
new library building. It seems to our
contemporary that there are just three
simple questions involved: 1. Does Rich-
mond need a public library? 2. Can Rich-
mond afford to maintain a public library?
3. Is Mr. Carnegie's offer advantageous
to the city?

The Herald disposes of the first two
questions in short order, as they answer
themselves. The third is considered more
at length, and on this point it says:
"A rich and generous man proposes to
pay for the building in which the library
is to be housed, and the only condition
made is that the city in return shall pro-
vide the building that city for whose
benefit it is provided shall pledge itself
to maintain it suitably. Ten thousand
dollars a year is not an inconsiderable
expenditure for salaries, new books and
other such such an institution."
"We have no sympathy with the illu-
minant criticism of Mr. Carnegie that he
is endeavoring to perpetuate his own name,
and is levying a tax on the various com-
munities in order to accomplish this end.
He does not stipulate or suggest that
his name shall be in any way attached
to the building. In many ways Mr. Car-
negie has given evidence of a philan-
thropic temper as rare as it is admirable.
His good heart and large mind are seen
in the fact that though Richmond has
thus far neglected his generous offer, the
offer is still open. For our own part, we
prefer to believe, and find it easy to be-
lieve, that he has made his offer in good
faith and from generous motives, and that
whether we accept or reject it, we ought
at least to be gentle enough in our breed-
ing to acknowledge it gratefully."

"But we ought to accept it, and without
further delay. We have a great and pros-
perous city, growing in manufactures, in
commerce, in finance. Let it grow with
equal steadiness in general welfare, in fac-
ilities for the broadest and deepest intel-
lectual culture. Let us have the public
library."

Mr. Carnegie has made us a gracious
offer, which should be graciously re-
ceived. There is a grace of receiving as
well as a grace of giving.

The People Aroused.

There is plenty of evidence, says a
Washington correspondent, that Commis-
sioner Garfield's scheme to expand the
Federal government by requiring corpora-
tions engaged in interstate commerce to
take out a Federal license has made a
profound impression, and set the think-
ing men of the country to studying. The
first edition of his report has been ex-
hausted and there is still a great demand
for copies from business men, lawyers
and students of economics. If the meas-
ure should be brought up before Congress
at this time it would have no chance
to be enacted into law, but there is no
doubt that the people are thinking and
the suggestion will not be permitted to
die an easy death. The agitation has be-
gun, and sooner or later it will become
a live political issue.

The curious part of it is that the plan
is heartily approved by the chief
rulers of the Standard Oil Company, one
of the greatest of the so-called trusts.
We mentioned the other day that the
suggestion was first made by Vice-Presi-
dent John D. Archbold, of that company,
when he appeared several years ago be-
fore the Industrial Commission. It now
turns out that Mr. John D. Rockefeller
suggested the same plan. When asked
what legislation he would propose regard-
ing industrial combinations, he said:

"First, Federal legislation under which
corporations may be created and regu-
lated, if that be possible. Second, in
lieu thereof, State legislation as nearly
uniform as possible encouraging combina-
tions of persons and capital for the pur-
pose of carrying on industries, but pre-
venting State supervision, not of a char-
acter to hamper industries, but sufficient
to prevent frauds upon the public." An-
other officer of that combination, who
appeared was H. H. Rogers, and when
asked if he would be willing, in case there
should be a general corporation law of
the United States, which seemed fair and
equitable, to organize under it and aban-
don organization under State laws, he
replied: "Most assuredly."

The mere fact that the Standard Oil
folks are in favor of the plan will tend
to make the people more or less suspi-
cious of it, but it is none the less a live
issue and will be heard from later on.

The Grand Jury.

The State of Minnesota by constitutional
amendment has abolished the grand jury
system, and has given to the Legislature
the power to determine the manner and
form of charging persons with the com-
mission of capital crimes. The Legislature
may act as a general court and bring
cause in the local courts where it deems
a public interest assailed. In case of

SHORT TALKS ON RAILROADS.

What the Interstate Commerce Commission Suggests.

The official resume of the report of the Interstate Commerce Commission for
1904 contains a temperate statement of the legislation which the Commission thinks
essential for the protection of the shippers. Attention is called to effective opera-
tion of the Elkins law, upon which this paper has already commented, and also
to the lack of power of the Commission under the present law to do more than try
to persuade the railroads to adopt a fair rate. Arguing for an increase of power
to compel the adoption of just and reasonable rates, the report says:

"Carriers are entitled to ignore the order of the Commission and await the judg-
ment of the Circuit Court upon a petition by the Commission and another trial of
the issues in that court. The more important the case may be, the order of the
Commission to be obeyed. The Commission must not only render a just decision,
but one that is convincing to the carrier, to afford a real relief from unlawful rates
contemplated in the statute. If the decision of the Commission is right, the public
is entitled to have it go into effect. If it is wrong, its operation could be enjoined
upon showing to that effect by the carrier in a suitable and summary proceeding in
the Federal Court. The amendments to the statute recommended by the Commis-
sion involve no fixing of whole tariffs of rates in the first instance or at any time,
but simply the redressing of transportation wrongs shown to exist after full inves-
tigation, during which all affected interests have been heard; and when an order is
issued against a carrier under such procedure, it should by operation of law be
compulsively effective upon the date therein specified."

In the fixing of rates by carriers upon all commodities for transportation in all
directions and between all points reached by railroads, it is inevitable that much
injustice, unfairness, unreasonableness, preference, and discrimination will be
practiced, notwithstanding the greatest care and ripest judgment may be exercised by
the railway officials. These errors of judgment on the part of the railway officials
constitute the reason for Federal regulation and the basis of the present widespread
demand for an amendment of the existing statute which will enable their speedy
correction."

The Commission alludes to the persistent misrepresentation by many who are
interested in opposing this legislation, that the amendments desired would confer
upon the Commission the power to arbitrarily initiate or make rates in the hands of five
and that it would be most dangerous to place this vast authority in the hands of five
men, especially five men who have had no experience as railway traffic managers.
No such power has been asked by the demand, nor eventually take that form, under
the Commission. Though the popular demand may eventually take that form, under
the stress of continued delay in remedying ascertained defects in the present plan
of regulation, the amendment recommended by the Commission, as to authority to
prescribe the reasonable rate upon complaint and after hearing, would confer in sub-
stance the same power that was actually exercised by the Commission from the date
of its organization, in 1887, up to May, 1897, when the United States Supreme Court
held that such power was not expressed in the statute.

The situation is regarded as increasingly grave, in view of the rapid disappear-
ance of railway competition and the maintenance of rates established by combina-
tions, attended as they are by substantial advances in the charges on many articles
of household necessity. Though the law is extremely defective, aggrieved shippers
have no other recourse than to appeal to the Commission, in the hope of some relief
from conditions which they regard as intolerable.

All concede that rates should be reasonable and just. When they are not so,
there is now no adequate means of making them reasonable and just unless the
carrier can be convinced and persuaded to do so. The interests of one party will
be safely relied upon to determine and protect the rights of another. Authority to
require the establishment of joint through rates over connecting and continuous
lines is also believed to be necessary. If authority to correct an unreasonable or un-
just rate should be granted.

This article is concluded by quoting the following language used by the President
in his annual message to the Congress:

"The government must in increasing degree supervise and regulate the workings
of the railways engaged in interstate commerce; and such increased supervision is
the only alternative to an increase of the present evils on the one hand or a still
more radical policy on the other. The most important legislative act now needed
regards the regulation of corporations is this act to confer on the Interstate Com-
merce Commission the power to revise rates and regulations, the revised rate to go
into effect and stay in effect unless and until the court of review reverses it."

It seems clear that the Commission is right in pointing out the danger to the
railroads of ever severe legislation if the proper demands of the public are stub-
bornly refused.

a presentation to the court by grand
jury, the Legislature may empower the
district attorney or the trial justice to
bring the matter directly before the courts.
It may adopt any process which is in
conformity with the rights guaranteed
to individuals by the Federal law.

This is a notable departure from a long
established custom. The institution of
the grand jury dates back to the earliest
period of English history, having been
in use among the Saxons. It was adopt-
ed by each and all the States of our
Union, and it is said that the system now
prevails everywhere under the English law,
except in Minnesota, and Scotland. We
are at a loss to understand why it should
have been abolished in Minnesota, as the
grand jury seems to us to be a neces-
sary institution. It is an inquisitorial
body, its function and its duty being to
inquire into all reported or rumored in-
fringements of law, and to lay charges
in specific indictments against the per-
sons charged, or may make a general re-
port to the court on prevailing condi-
tions in the community in which it op-
erates. We should consider it a public
misfortune for Virginia to follow the ex-
ample of Minnesota and abolish this sys-
tem of inquisition.

Grand Opera.

The people of Richmond have already
demonstrated that they are interested
in grand opera. The sales of seats for
the engagements which begin to-day have
been very large, and each and every
one of the series of entertainments
will be largely attended.
This is gratifying. It speaks well for
the culture of Richmond and guarantees
that there will be other delightful sea-
sons of grand opera.

The Southern Planter, which was es-
tablished in 1840, begins the New Year
with a large and growing subscription
list, and a splendid advertising patron-
age. The January number contains 32
pages of matter with many specially pre-
pared articles and is one of the best num-
bers ever issued by our esteemed contem-
porary. The Southern Planter is an es-
tablished institution in Virginia, and is
doing a splendid service promoting sci-
entific and up-to-date farming. It begins
the New Year with volume 66, No. 1,
and we hope that there are ahead of
it many more years of usefulness and
prosperity.

The Atlanta Constitution expresses the
opinion that one good resolution for some
of the popular novelties would be that,
in this year of grace, they'll kill their
heroes earlier in the game, and not pro-
long the agony to six hundred pages. What
a recognition of the rights of their long-
suffering readers that would be!

General Nogla's New Year gift to the
Mikado gives considerable force to the
latter's proclamation annexing Man-
churia.

Mr. Carnegie's principal regret about
all it is that while she was at it, Mrs.
Chadwick did not take his case of lum-
bago.

The big sinances for this year could
not afford to wait to get the total vote
of the Supreme Court of Colorado.

James J. Corbett, so he says, is going
to play Hamlet. He would probably fit
the ghost role better.

Dr. Lyman Abbott's brethren of the
cloth are still viewing him with alarm.

Minister Choate is also said to be go-
ing into the private citizen business.

WIA RETURN TO CHIEF'S OFFICE

Detectives Say Separation From

Headquarters Handi-

caps Work.

Both Chief Hulse and Captain Tomlin-
son are anxious to have the detectives
headquarters removed from the old Sec-
ond Station, at Sixth and Broad Streets,
back to the City Hall.
Chief Hulse was embodied in a report to
the Police Board last night from Captain
Tomlinson. He said that the work of
his department was handicapped because
of its separation from the chief's office,
at which place all the reports were sent,
and because of the fact that one de-
tective is detailed at the chief's office
all the time and one at detective head-
quarters.

Chief Hulse recommended the change,
and it is likely the removal will be or-
dered, after the way is further dis-
cussed at a meeting of the board next
Wednesday night.

The removal of the department was
made several months ago, in order that
the old Second Station might be used in
emergency cases. It is now the head-
quarters of the inspector, the superintendent
of patrol and the secret service.
With the change it is likely that the Sixth
Street house will be closed altogether.

The present headquarters at the City
Hall are in their infancy, and the board
will endeavor to secure more office
rooms, either adjoining the present office
or elsewhere in the City Hall.

At the meeting of the board last night
the report of the chief for the month of
December showed: Arrests made—Colonies,
23; misdemeanors, 512; white, 278; colored,
234; ordinance violations, 111; property re-
covered: First District, 235; Second Dis-
trict, 241; doors found open, 38. Captain
Tomlinson's report showed 74 arrests and
recovery of property valued at \$914.74.

Change of Uniform.

A change in the uniform of the ser-
geants was provided for and it was
ordered, that caps of the metropolitan
police pattern be secured, and that two-
bar chevrons be placed on the coat sleeves.
This change is to be made so that a ser-
geant may be distinguished at night from
a patrolman.

Superintendent Howard's report, recom-
mending the transfer of the office from
the Main Street patrol station, thus plac-
ing two more men on regular duty, was
turned over to the chief, with instruc-
tions to act on it.

A letter sent to the Mayor, signed "J. R.
Gordon," and giving a Fulton address,
complaining of "fake" clubs in that sec-
tion, was turned over to the board. In-
vestigation had been made, and it was
learned that there was no such address in
Fulton, and that one such name in the
city directory.

No attention was given the letter, under
the circumstances, but the police will
give special attention to the clubs, not
only in Fulton, but in other sections.

Reports of the weather of Sunday and Mon-
day were followed yesterday evening by
the forecast of the weather for Tuesday.
The mercury dropped fifty-four degrees
in less than forty-eight hours. The gale
last night was terrific in the extreme, and
played havoc with all small craft along
the southern shore. The storm last night
was one of the severest of the winter so
far. The ground is covered with snow
to-day, and the intense cold and violent
west gale has still raining hard, and
all outdoor work out of the question.

Multitudes of small children who went
to school yesterday morning, and in the
afternoon through a blinding snow
storm and a howling north wind. In addi-
tion to the snow, the wind was so in-
tense that many of the little ones were
indisposedly facing these conditions for
several miles.

Some of the rural mail carriers who
were out until a late hour last night suf-
fered as never before. The change was
so sudden that they were not prepared,
and their faces almost froze.

SUFFOLK WEDDINGS.

Religious Service Some Time

After Civil Marriage.

SUFFOLK, VA., Jan. 4.—Charles Ed-
ward Squire, of Canton, D. C., finally
of Canton, Canada, was married at the
Episcopal rectory here to-day, by
Rev. Joseph B. Dunn, to Miss Owenday,
of Bedford, Pa. The bridegroom, whose
education is given as a journalist, says
he and Miss Owenday were wedded in
the rectory here, and that the bride had
since expressed a wish to be married over again
by a clergyman.

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VIRGINIA CHURCH

IS ALLOWED \$780

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The Court of Claims has for-
warded to the speaker of the House the
findings of the court in the case of the
trustees of the Methodist Episcopal
Church, of Lambert's Point, Va., which
is a claim for rent for the church, and
for the further use of the building, al-
leged to have been used by the United
States government during the war. The
trustees claimed \$1,280; the court allows
\$780. The payment of the amount is con-
ditioned on the passage by Congress of
a bill, making the appropriation.

Rire in Louisa.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
LOUISA, Va., Jan. 4.—The dwelling
house of Mr. W. J. McManis, who lives
between here and Marlinton, was burned
yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock. Some
of the furniture was saved, but the house
is an entire loss. There was about \$100
in money burned.

The fire originated from a defective fuse
in the property was insured in the
Louisiana Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

"HAPPY NEW YEAR"

Is a very familiar greeting, but can one
be happy without health? Not. Then
be glad to give your friends a bottle of
our St. Patrick's Stomach Bitters, which
will restore you to health and happi-
ness, namely, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters.
It never fails in cases of indiges-
tion, dyspepsia, flatulency, heartburn,
insomnia, chills, or colds. Try a bot-
tle, and get a free copy of our 1008 Al-
manac from your Druggist.

HOSTETTER'S

STOMACH BITTERS.

Handsome Embroideries Much Reduced.

As beautiful a lot of Embroideries to pick from this
morning as ever went on sale at reduced prices—all clear,
perfectly worked.

Swisses, Nainsooks and Cambrics, in Edges and In-
sertions, of finest thread and in daintiest patterns. The
majority of them are in widths especially adaptable for
shirt-waist trimmings and for corset covers. They are the
remainder of some very handsome matched sets, that
have been more or less broken. Yet there are two and
three widths in Edges and Insertions to match in many
patterns. These changes in prices:

12 1/2c. qualities	16 2 1/2c. qualities	20c. qualities	25c. qualities
At 8c.	At 9c.	At 12c.	At 15c.
30c. qualities	37 1/2c. qualities	45c. qualities	50c. qualities
At 18c.	At 21c.	At 23c.	At 29c.
65c. qualities	75c. qualities	85c. qualities	\$1 qualities
At 34c.	At 45c.	At 49c.	At 59c.
\$1.25 qualities	\$1.00 qualities	\$2.00 qualities	
At 74c.	At 98c.	At \$1.10.	

Remnants and Short Lengths of Embroideries
at Half Price.

Fourquaren, Temple & Co.

THE BEST OF HAIR TONICS, XANTHINE!

Read what an enthusiastic user says:
"AN UNASKED TESTIMONIAL."

From William E. Dunstan, Manager Crystal Ice and Coal Company,
Elizabeth City, N. C., September 12, 1899.

Xanthine Company—About July 1st, last, I bought a bottle of your Hair
Restorative. At that time I wrote you if I was deceived in this I would
never read the advertisement of another hair medicine; that I should never
try again if I did not find this what it said. It gives me pleasure to state
that it is the only preparation I have found that would perform all that was
claimed for it. It has given entire satisfaction. WILLIAM E. DUNSTAN.

or sent, charges paid, by
SOLD AT DRUGGISTS, XANTHINE CO., Richmond, Va.

JANUARY 5TH IN WORLD'S HISTORY

1060. Edward the Confessor, King of England, died. He was called to the
throne 1041.

1581. The electoral college assembled at Rome and elected Ferdinand, brother
of Charles V., King of the Romans. He was crowned a few days after at
Aix-la-Chapelle.

1550. Catharine de Medici died. She was born at Florence 1519, married
1533, the Dauphin, afterwards Henry II., of France. She was three times
regent of France.

1776. The New Hampshire provincial convention resolved to change the form
of government.

1781. Arnold invaded Virginia with 1,500 British troops. He marched to
Richmond, destroyed the public stores and buildings.

1798. A bill passed the House in Congress paying Kosciuszko \$12,800, and the
four daughters of Count de Grasse \$200 each per annum for five years.

1853. Revolution in Mexico. General Arista resigned and Cevallos elected
president ad interim.

1903. Proposed anti-polygamy constitutional amendment introduced by Rep-
resentative Parker, of New Jersey.

TRY TO OUST TWO SENATORS

(By Associated Press.)

DENVER, COLO., Jan. 4.—No action was
taken by the Legislature to-day looking
toward a settlement of the gubernatorial
contest and it is not likely that anything